

Message Text

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11

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NEA-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-14 AF-10 SAJ-01 DRC-01 INT-08

EB-11 OMB-01 SCEM-02 /180 W
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R 140930Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2340

INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 13883

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, YO, IT

SUBJECT: ITALO-YUGOSLAV POLITICAL CONSULTATIONS

REF: BELGRADE 5508

1. FONOFF SOURCE (PIETROMARCHI) WHO ACCOMPANIED POLITICAL DIRECTOR DUCCI TO BELGRADE FOR CONSULTATIONS (DECEMBER 4-6) HAS GIVEN US READOUT ON VISIT. DISCUSSIONS ON MIDDLE EAST, ACCORDING PIETROMARCHI, WERE ALONG LINES REFTEL WITH YUGOSLAVS EXHIBITING CERTAIN AMOUNT OF JEALOUSY AND NOSTALGIA OVER INDEPENDENT ROLE BEING PLAYED BY ROMANIA. IN ADDITION, PETRIC TOLD DUCCI THAT YUGOSLAVS HAD WARNED ARABS THAT OIL WEAPON COULD BOOMERANG AND NOT TO OVERPLAY IT.

2. ON OTHER SUBJECTS, PIETROMARCHI SAID THAT ONE FACTOR WHICH HAD INHIBITED ITALIANS FROM RESUMING PERIODIC CONSULTATIONS AT DUCCI LEVEL WAS CONCERN THAT YUGOSLAVS WOULD RAISE BILATERAL ISSUES. THIS FEAR WAS BORNE OUT EARLY IN DISCUSSIONS WHEN YUGOSLAV SIDE BROUGHT UP TERRITORIAL QUESTION OF ZONE B. ACCORDING PIETROMARCHI, YUGOSLAVS REITERATED STANDARD DEMAND THAT GOI RECOGNIZE YUGOSLAV DE JURE SOVEREIGNTY OVER ZONE B WITHOUT, HOWEVER OFFERING ANY CONCESSIONS TO
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ITALIAN CLAIMS FOR BORDER RECTIFICATIONS. GIVEN CONTINUED

YUGOSLAV INFLEXIBILITY, PIETROMARCHI SAW NO HOPE FOR RESOLUTION OF THIS ISSUE IN NEAR FUTURE, PARTICULARLY SINCE NONE OF THE ITALIAN POLITICAL PARTIES ARE PRESSING FOR A SETTLEMENT. ON POSITIVE SIDE, PIETROMARCHI REMARKED THAT YUGOSLAVS HAD NOT REPEAT NOT DRAMATIZED THE PROBLEM.

3. REGARDING BALKAN NEIGHBORS, YUGOSLAVS TOLD DUCCI THAT RELATIONS WITH BULGARIA WERE IMPROVING AND THAT SOFIA WAS PRESSING FOR LONG TERM ECONOMIC AGREEMENT. HOWEVER, MACEDONIAN QUESTION REMAINS UNSETTLED. RELATIONS WITH ROMANIA ARE SOMEWHAT STRAINED DUE TO DISAGREEMENT OVER MIDDLE EAST SITUATION. ON GREECE, YUGOSLAVS PROFESSED A WAIT AND SEE ATTITUDE. REGARDING ALBANIA, YUGOSLAV ESTIMATE OF ECONOMIC SITUATION WAS LESS BLACK THAN ITALIAN ASSESEMENT. BEAUDRY

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